

Please substitute the paragraph beginning at line 3 of page 8 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A4 --Figs. 24A~24C show an improved structure of the tablet cutting apparatus of the fourth embodiment of the present invention.--

Please substitute the paragraph beginning at line 16 of page 8 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A5 --Figs. 1 through Fig. 4 respectively show various views from different view points, which are used for explaining structure and operations of the tablet conveying and cutting apparatus, of the present invention.--

[Please substitute the paragraph beginning at line 19 of page 8 with the following rewritten paragraph:]

--Basically, the main body of the tablet conveying and cutting apparatus 1 of the present invention is constructed of three plates 2, 3 and 4, a bottom plate 6 and a top plate 7, which is substantially a box-shaped structure. The tablet feeder 8 is installed on the top plate.--

Please substitute the paragraph beginning at line 14 of page 9 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A6 --An oblique plate (position modification device) 18 is installed between the plates 2, 3, in which one end of the oblique plate is connected to the end of the channel 14 and the oblique plate is oblique downwards. A second baffle plate 19 is further assembled within the channel 14 between the oblique plate 18 and the baffle plate 9. The second baffle plate 19 is rotationally mounted on the channel wall 12 and extended towards the center of the arc formed by the channel wall 12. The second baffle plate 19, for example, is made of flexible and resilient material. The channel walls 12, 13, channel 14, rotary arm 16 and the second baffle plate 19 form a so-called arranging device. Moreover, the second baffle plate 19 can, for example, be made of iron, which is mounted on the channel wall 12 and capable of freely rotating. The second baffle plate 19 is mounted on the channel wall 12 using a resilient element, such as a spring, and is protruded towards the arc center of the channel wall 12.--

Please substitute the paragraph beginning at line 12 of page 10 with the following rewritten paragraph:

a7 ~~In addition, the retainer roller 23 is connected to a roller motor 31 installed on opposite side of the plate 2 through a small pulley 32, a large pulley 33 and a belt 34. Due to the rotation of the roller motor 31, the retainer roller 23 is rotated clockwise with respect to Fig. 4 at a decreased low speed. The retainer roller 23 and the supporting resilient plate 21 form a conveying device.--~~

[Please substitute the paragraph beginning at line 17 of page 10 with the following rewritten paragraph:]

--A rotary blade 36 is installed under the retainer roller 23 and the supporting resilient plate 21. The rotary blade is mounted on a rotational shaft of a rotary blade motor 37 installed on the opposite side of the plate 2 by a fixer 38 and located under the midst between the plates 2, 3. The rotary blade 36 is rotated counterclockwise with respect to Fig. 4 when the rotary blade motor is rotated.--

Please substitute the paragraph beginning at line 14 of page 11 with the following rewritten paragraph:

a8 ~~Pins 43A, 44A are further respectively mounted on the left ends of the sliding plates 43, 44. Each of the pins 43A, 44A are rotationally and movably received within grooves 52A, 52B on the two ends of a rod 52 connected to a shaft of a retainer plate motor 51 installed on the bottom surface of the base plate 46. The retainer plates 41, 42, the sliding plates 43, 44, the base plate 46, the holding-down plates 47, 48, the retainer plate motor 51 and the rod 52 form a retainer structure.--~~

[Please substitute the paragraph beginning at line 20 of page 11 with the following rewritten paragraph:]

pub B7 --As described above, as the retainer plate motor 51 rotates, the rod 52 is then rotated clockwise with respect to Fig 6. Accordingly, the sliding plate 43 is moved right with respect to Fig. 6, while the sliding plate 44 is moved left, causing the retainer plates 41, 42 are to be moved

Q8 separately. In contrast, if the retainer plate motor 51 rotates reversely, the rod 52 is then rotated counterclockwise with respect to Fig. 6. The sliding plate 43 is moved left with respect to Fig. 6, while the sliding plate 44 is moved right, causing the retainer plates 41, 42 are to be moved toward each other. The central line of the retainer plates 41, 42 is usually coincident to that of the plates 2, 3.--

Please substitute the paragraph on page 12, beginning at line 8 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Q9 --The operations based on the foregoing structure are described and discussed in detail. When an elliptical (oval) or long-circular tablet is drained piece by piece from the shoot of the tablet feeder 8, the drained (or processed) tablet M is blocked by the baffle plate 9. The direction or position of the tablet M is changed and then the tablet M falls on the channel 14. The control device then drives the rotary arm motor 17 such that the rotary arm 16 is rotated counterclockwise with respect to Fig. 3.--

Please substitute the paragraph on page 13, beginning at line 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Q10 --The tablet M almost reaches the oblique plate 18 after passing the baffle plate 19, and then falls along the oblique plate 18, during which the long side of the tablet is credibly perpendicular to the tablet's moving direction.--

[Please substitute the paragraph on page 13, beginning at line 4 with the following rewritten paragraph:]

--Moreover, the retainer plates 41, 42 are separated from each other, the tablet is thus sliding downwards between the retainer plates 41, 42. Afterwards, the rotary arm 16 is rotated clockwise with respect to Fig. 3 and then returned to a predetermined standby position. Furthermore, the tablet M sliding downwards on the oblique plate 18 is blocked by the shutter 22 because the shutter 22 is closed at this time.--

a¹⁰ [Please substitute the paragraph on page 13, beginning at line 9 with the following rewritten paragraph:]

--When the tablet M is blocked and stopped by the shutter 22, it is not necessary that the center of the tablet M must be coincident with the center line of the plates 2, 3. The control device first drives the shutter motor 24 for raising the shutter 22 by the cranks 26, 27, and then the retainer motor 51 is driven to move the retainer plates 41, 42 to move towards each other. The two ends of the long side of the tablet M are then respectively retained by the retainer plates 41, 42 when the center of the tablet M is coincident with the center line of the plates 2, 3.--

[Please substitute the paragraph on page 13, beginning at line 16 with the following rewritten paragraph:]

--Under such a circumstance, the long side of the tablet M is perpendicular to its moving direction and the center of the tablet M is located on the center line of the plates 2, 3, i.e., the center of the tablet M is located on an extension line of the rotary blade 36.--

Please substitute the paragraph on page 13, beginning at line 22 with the following rewritten paragraph:

a¹¹ --After the tablet M reaches the retainer roller 23, the tablet M is resiliently retained up and down by the retainer roller 23 and the supporting resilient plate 21 and then moves slowly to the left with respect to Fig. 4. Namely, the tablet M moves towards the rotary blade 36. While the tablet M reaches the rotary blade 36, the tablet M can be correctly and equally cut in half from its center because the center is consistent with the rotary blade 36. Afterwards, the two half-cut tablets are further conveyed by the retainer roller 23 and then fall to the reception dish 54.--

[Please substitute the paragraph on page 14, beginning at line 5 with the following rewritten paragraph:]

--The thickness of the tablet M is absorbed because of the deformation of lower part of the supporting resilient plate 21. Moreover, the rotary blade 36 rotates within the grooves 21A, 23A and the tablet M is cut by the rotary blade 36 under the condition of being retained at the

retainer roller 23, the force is thus acted on the retainer roller 23 rather than the supporting resilient plate 21.--

all [Please substitute the paragraph on page 14, beginning at line 10 with the following rewritten paragraph:]

--According to the present invention, the rotary arm 16 makes the tablet M move within the channel 14 such that the long side of the tablet M is perpendicular to its moving direction. The ends of the long side of the tablet M are retained by the retainer plates 41, 42. After the center of the tablet M is changed to be corresponding to the rotary blade 36, the retainer roller 12 conveys the tablet M to the rotary blade 36 for cutting the tablet M. Therefore, the position of the tablet M with the oval or rectangular shape, even other than circular shape, can be more definitely consistent with the location of the rotary blade 36 during conveying to the blade 36.--

Please substitute the paragraph on page 15, beginning at line 6 with the following rewritten paragraph:

all [As discussion of the foregoing embodiment, the retainer plates 41, 42 are driven to be moved toward each other or apart by the crank structure consisting of the sliding plates 43, 44, the pins 43A, 44A and the rod 52. However, it is not the only structure applied to the present invention. For example, as shown in Figs. 8 and 9, a conveying belt 61 is installed from the left to the right of the base plate 46 through a pulley 66 mounted on the retainer motor 51 and a pulley 67 on the other end of the base plate 46. Through a link plate 62, the sliding plate 43 is fixed on a forward path of the conveying belt 61 and the sliding plate 44 is fixed on a backward path of the conveying belt 61. The items having the same numerals shown in Figs. 1 through 7 represent the same elements.--

[Please substitute the paragraph on page 15, beginning at line 15 with the following rewritten paragraph:]

--As described above, due to the clockwise and counterclockwise rotations of the retainer motor 51, the conveying belt 61 can convey along the forward or backward path such that the sliding plates 43, 44 can operate as the crank structure. Furthermore, the conveying belt can be

A¹² replaced by gears and then the same operations can be achieved. In the embodiment, the base plate 46 is assembled vertically, which can further reduce the distance of the oblique plate 18 by comparing with the previous embodiment. Therefore, as the distance of the oblique plate 18 is reduced, the falling distance down to the oblique plate 18 of the tablet m can be also reduced.--

Please substitute the paragraph on page 16, beginning at line 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A¹³ Furthermore, in these embodiments, oval tablet is used to explain the operation, but in general the circular tablet can be cut equally in half from its center in the way and no further description is made for this.--

Please substitute the paragraph on page 16, beginning at line 10 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A¹⁴ As shown, numeral 16' denotes the rotary arm, numeral 16A' is the pushing plate, numeral 16B' represents a restrict level of the baffle plate and numeral 23' is the retainer roller. Fig. 13 shows a portion of the retainer roller 23'. The retainer roller 23' can be made of rubber, for example and a rugged surface is formed on the roller 23'. The rugged surface of the roller 23' can further actually retain the tablet M. Namely, as the roller 23 of the embodiment shown in Fig. 2 rotates, the tablet M is conveyed. However, the rollers between the groove 23A are unnecessary to convey the tablet at the same timing. One of the rollers may rotate faster than the other, causing the tablet inclined.--

Please substitute the paragraph on page 17, beginning at line 5 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A¹⁵ As shown in Fig. 16, the tablet M slides downwards on the oblique plate 18 and then is blocked and stopped by the shutter 22. By the restrict level 16B', the pushing plate 16A' returns to its initial position and the baffle plate 19' also returns to its initial position.--

[Please substitute the paragraph on page 17, beginning at line 9 with the following rewritten paragraph:]

a15
--Next referring to Figs. 17A and 17B, the function of the oblique plate 18 is described. As shown in Figs. 17A and 17B, the tablet M slides downwards on the oblique plate 18. Furthermore, Fig. 17C shows that the tablet M in a standing position, which it is seldom occurred by chance. Even though under the situation shown in Figs. 17C and 17D, the tablet M can be laid on and slid downwards the oblique plate 18.

Please substitute the paragraph on page 17, beginning at line 23 with the following rewritten paragraph:

a16
--The retainer plates 41, 42 then move towards the center (direction E shown in Fig. 16) such that the center of the tablet M is consistent with the location of the rotary blade 36. The retainer roller 23' is then driven and the tablet M is retained by the retainer roller 23' and the supporting resilient plate 21. Afterwards, the retainer plates 41, 42 are immediately separated (the opposite direction E shown in Fig. 16) and then returned to the initial position.--

Please substitute the paragraph on page 18, beginning at line 15 with the following rewritten paragraph:

a17
--Figs. 18 to 24A-24C further show another embodiment of the present invention, in which the same numerals represent the same elements shown in Figs 1 through 17A-17D and their corresponding descriptions are omitted. From Fig. 20, a removable device can be only installed on the opposite side of the plate 2 for simplifying the structure and easily cleaning the apparatus.

Please substitute the paragraph on page 19, beginning at line 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

a18
--As shown in Fig. 20, numeral 19' is a baffle plate fixed by a resilient element. Numeral 16' is a rotary arm, 16A' is a pushing plate and 16B' is a restrict lever of the baffle plate 19'. Numerals 41', 42' represent retainer plates and numeral 23' represents a retainer roller. The retainer roller 23' is made of rubber and a rugged structure is formed symmetrically on the circumstance of the retainer roller 23'.

Please substitute the paragraph on page 19, beginning at line 10 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A19
The rotary arm motor 17' is driven so that the pushing plate 16A' can push the tablet M to move forwards. Then, as shown in Fig. 21, the tablet M is in contact with the baffle plate 19'. If the tablet M is rectangular, the long side of the tablet M is then arranged along the surface of the pushing plate 16A'. In Fig. 21, a circular tablet is shown and therefore the position of the tablet M is not rearranged.

[Please substitute the paragraph on page 19, beginning at line 15 with the following rewritten paragraph:]

--Referring to Fig. 22, the tablet M is continuously pushed by the pushing plate 16A' move forwards and then to fall down along the oblique plate 18. At this time, the pushing plate 16A' returns to its original position by the restrict lever 16B' and the baffle plate 19' also returns to its original position.--

[Please substitute the paragraph on page 19, beginning at line 19 with the following rewritten paragraph:]

--The fallen tablet M is in contact with the shutter 22 and therefore blocked and stopped by the shutter 22. Then, the shutter 22 is opened and the tablet M falls to a contact position with the retainer roller 23'. Because the falling distance of the tablet M in this case is shortest, the tablet M is not jammed with the retainer roller 23'. The retainer plates 41, 42 then move towards the center such that the center of the tablet M is consistent with the location of the rotary blade 36.--

Please substitute the paragraph on page 20, beginning at line 10 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A20
The retainer plates 41', 42' return to the initial positions before the roller 23' is driven. However, as proceeded in this manner, the tablet M may be inclined at the beginning that the tablet M is retained by the roller 23' and the supporting resilient plate 21. Therefore, the retainer plates 41', 42' are controlled to separate slightly before the roller 23' is driven.